



BENNINGTON BANNER

BENNINGTON, VT  
DAILY 8,000

EPA

SATURDAY

SEP 14 1991

NEW ENGLAND NEWSCLIP AGENCY, INC.

60

# Town wants insurance companies to help pay for Superfund cleanup

JORDAN RAU

BANNER STAFF WRITER

BENNINGTON — The town wants some of its former insurance companies to pay for part of Bennington's expected costs for the study and cleanup of hazardous contamination at the closed landfill.

Town Manager Kevin Ryan said yesterday that the town is asking Northern Security Insurance Co. of Montpelier to pay some of the costs the town expects to incur from hazardous materials dumped at the 10-acre Superfund site between 1969 and 1987 when the town was operating the landfill, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Ryan said the company has agreed to look into the town's claim but has not committed itself to covering any of the costs. Company representatives could not be reached yesterday for comment.

"We believe that they, plus a few others, insured us at the time of the occurrence," Ryan said. He declined to list the years that Northern Security insured the town.

"There may be other insurance companies involved," Ryan said, "but we don't have them in hand." Ryan said he wants the insurers to pay "as much as we can" get from them.

Along with Eveready Battery Co. Inc., Banner Publishing Corp. and nine local companies, the town is being held responsible by the EPA for the closed landfill on Houghton Lane.

The town owned and operated the site during the time that the haz-

ardous chemicals were dumped, according to the EPA.

The town's attorney, James Thompson Jr. of the Hartford, Conn. firm of Pepe & Hazard, has already racked up \$55,375 in legal bills for the town, Ryan said.

The cost for the study the EPA wants the town and the companies to perform is estimated at more than

\$1 million, and the actual cleanup of Superfund sites often costs more than \$20 million, according to the EPA.

Ryan said that the legal costs consist of travel fees for Thompson, who has been commuting to Boston for EPA meetings.

See *SUPERFUND* Page 10 <sup>3</sup>

Superfund Records Center

SITE: BenningtonBREAK: 13.3OTHER: 527807

## *Town hits insurance companies*

**SUPERFUND** from page 1 *3*

Ryan said that any extra cost to local taxpayers for Thompson's fees were justified by his knowledge of and experience with the Superfund process.

Ryan said that a less experienced attorney would have cost the town more. "Just reflect on what we have gotten for our money so far — I think over exposure (to greater costs) was far greater originally than what it's going to be if we had not had Thompson's legal assistance," Ryan

said.

The other companies involved in the cleanup are Bennington Iron Works, Inc., Bijur Lubricating Corp., Chemical Fabrics Corp., Courtaulds Structural Composites, Inc., East Mountain Transport, Environmental Action, Inc., G.C.D.C., Inc., Johnson Controls Inc. and Textron Inc.

Besides the Bennington landfill Superfund site, two other local sites have been targeted for cleanup: one at Tansitor Electronic Inc.'s West Road property and another site at the Burgess Brothers' Landfill.